

# The Torchbearer

The Newsletter of St. John of Damascus Antiochian Orthodox Church of Dedham  
300 West Street, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026-5594

781.326.3046 / [www.stjohnd.org](http://www.stjohnd.org)

Archpriest John K. Teebagy, Pastor

September/October 2016

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.



In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulcher and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who

came to see this great instrument of Redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope, and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: The entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

*We will celebrate and observe this liturgy, the procession of the Holy beginning at 5:30 pm. Flowers will*



*Feast on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> with the Cross, and the distribution of flowers, also be handed out on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.*

## Church Records

**“Blessed are they whom thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord”**



Antoine Kandalajt (97) of Quincy fell asleep in the Lord on March 7, 2016. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter, along with their families. Burial was at Pine Hill Cemetery in Quincy.

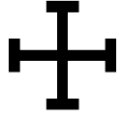
Marie Shaker (85) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on May 8, 2016. She is survived by two sisters, and nieces and nephews. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

Rosemarie Camerano (77) of Somerville fell asleep in the Lord on May 24, 2016. She is survived by nieces and nephews. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

Linda Demerjian Pickering (69) of Florida fell asleep in the Lord on July 17, 2016. She is survived by her husband. Burial was at Blue Hill Cemetery in Braintree.

Joan Dikmak (79) of Chelmsford fell asleep in the Lord on July 22, 2016. She is survived by two brothers and nieces and nephews. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

**Memory Eternal!**



2016.

**“O Lord, when thou was baptized in the River Jordan”**

Lorice Lauren, daughter of Christopher and Ashley (Close) Andrews, was baptized on May 21,

**Many Years!**



*From The Executive Board...* As this newsletter reaches you, the summer will be coming to an end and the church calendar will be filling up fast. Once again it is my honor to have been selected to serve as Chairman of your Executive Board. This year we have a very good blend of young and experienced Board Members. I thank them all for committing their time and talents to serve the parishioners of the Church of St. John of Damascus.

Although many been taking it easy during the summer months, your Executive Board has been very busy working and planning for the upcoming year. The Board is looking to improve or replace several of our aging building systems which have served us well since our church was built and are now becoming less reliable.

The next time you drive into the parking lot, you might notice that our outdoor landscaping is taking shape. The building exterior is looking like new due to parish volunteers who have been pressure washing the building surfaces which has saved the parish several thousands of dollars.

As discussed during our annual parish meeting, the Board has been looking at several plans and options to increase our parking capacity by adding an additional parking lot on our undeveloped land. This will work well in the long term plans of our Parish property.

As September rolls around, our Church school will be starting up with a new superintendent. Our Bazaar Committee is in place and the multitude of preparations for our Annual Bazaar have already begun.

His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph has also blessed our Parish with a weekend visit scheduled for the end of January.

So, in addition to our annually scheduled events we have a lot of things going on this year. Although enthusiastic and committed, your Executive Board is relatively few in number. At times, we may need to reach out to you for help with one of our many tasks that we have planned. Whether it be leading an event or helping out whenever you can, we will gladly accept any time that you can give us. As stewards of our Church, please say "YES" when asked. Or better still, step forward as so many of your fellow parishioners do and ask what you can do to help.

Please watch for the many events on the church website or call the office to find out what is coming up.

As we move forward with our plans for the upcoming year, the Board will try to keep you informed of our progress. We also welcome any and all ideas that you may have to keep our parish strong both spiritually and socially. Let's keep our family traditions and make all our spiritual and social events at your Church of Saint John of Damascus successful. *Yours in Christ, Abe Sabbag, Executive Board Chairman*

*From the Visitation Ministry...* The Visitation Ministry offers friendly visits and support to any parishioner who may seek a visit or consultation. A detailed brochure describing the Visitation Ministry will be mailed to you soon. Look for it in your mail soon! In the meantime, feel free to contact me at [Visitations@stjohnd.org](mailto:Visitations@stjohnd.org) or through the Church Office. *Yours in Christ, Donna Sabbag*

*FYI...*

**Liturgical Schedule** We will return to our regular liturgical schedule on Sunday, September 11, with Matins at 9 a.m. and the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. Confession is offered from 8:45-9:40 a.m., or by appointment.

**September Feast Days** Two major feast days are celebrated in September. We will join St. George, Norwood on Wednesday, September 7 at 6 pm for liturgy for the feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. On Tuesday, September 13 we will have the liturgy and procession at 5:30 pm HERE at St. John's for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross.

**Thank You** Due to the generosity of the parish during Great Lent 2016, we were able to donate \$3,096.62 to the *Food for Hungry People* program of our archdiocese.

**Snowbirds** Before leaving for Florida, please give the church office your temporary address and the dates of your stay. This ensures that you get the church's mail in a timely manner and reduces postage costs for the church. Thank you.

**Bulletin Deadline** Please remember that the deadline for the Sunday bulletin is Wednesday at 2 pm.

**St. George, West Roxbury** will have their annual bazaar on October 21-23. For more information, please visit <http://www.stgeorgeofboston.org/>.



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS  
**ANNUAL BAZAAR**

November 4th, 5th, & 6th 2016

**AUTHENTIC MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINE!**

★ Including ALL your favorites,  
★ Rolled Grape leaves, Kibbee, Shish Kebab, Sfeeha,  
★ Hummous, Tabooleh, Baklava and more...

★  
**TAKE OUT AVAILABLE**

**FEATURING**

- Middle Eastern and American Food & Pastries
- Almost New Boutique
- Christmas Corner - Gifts & more...
- White Elephant Table
- Country Store
- Gift Baskets
- Snack Bar
- Raffles
- Take A Chance
- Kids Games
- Bounce House and more...



**LIVE & SILENT AUCTION**

Live auction, Saturday Nov., 5th at 2 PM  
Silent auction, bidding from Fri., & Sat., until 2 PM  
Vacation get-a-ways, sports tickets,  
gift certificates and more ...

**Bazaar Hours:**

Friday 12 noon - 9 PM  
Saturday 10 AM - 9 PM  
Sunday 12 noon - 2 PM



300 West Street (Exit 17 off Rt. 128) Dedham  
[www.stjohnd.org/bazaar](http://www.stjohnd.org/bazaar) | 781-326-3046



Please join us to celebrate a new  
Church School Year!



## Back - To - Church School Barbecue

**Sunday, September 11, 2016**

Directly after Divine Liturgy and Church School

**Donation:**

\$10 Adults and Children over 10

\$5 Children ages 4-10 years old

**Sponsored by The Church School Parent Guild  
Volunteers needed!**

Please contact 2016-17 Chairperson Jennifer Tawa if you would like  
to help! [jentawa22@gmail.com](mailto:jentawa22@gmail.com) 617.605.5056

**For reservations, please contact:  
Church Office at (781) 326-3046 or  
[churchoffice@stjohnd.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnd.org)**

Back By Popular Demand  
Saturday October 15, 2016  
Norwood High School  
Performance Center 8pm

"One of the South Shore's greatest entertainers..."

"A show not to be missed.."

"A world-class singer!"

AMERICAN ARABIC  
BENEVOLENT  
ASSOCIATION (AABA)

PRESENTS

AN EVENING  
WITH  
GINA DIMIA



General Seating: \$25

Reserved Gold: \$500 (10 seats)    Reserved Silver: \$250 (6 seats)

For Info and/or Reservations please contact David Franciosi 781-856-0974  
or Darya Gamel at daryag@aabausa.org or 617-323-2722 Ext.4

*Sonia's Run*   
...building on a dream

**5K Run/Walk /Kids' Fun Run/Fall Fair**

Saturday, September 17, 2016

5K Start 9am / Kids' Start 8:30am (*rain or shine*)

Saint George Orthodox Church, West Roxbury

***Be A Runner . . .***

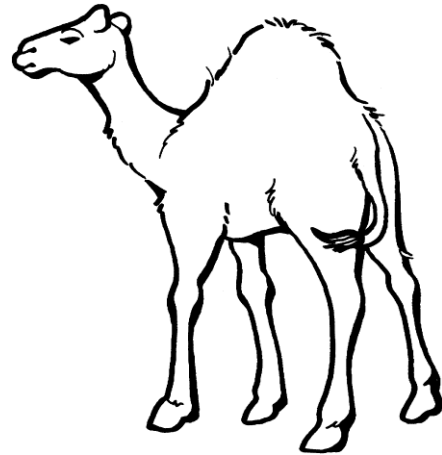
***. . . Be A Volunteer . . . Be A Sponsor!***

Part of what makes Sonia's Run special is the participation  
of many people who lend their energy and love to the event.  
You can participate in any number of ways. . .

**..be a RUNNER..be a VOLUNTEER..be a SPONSOR!**

We need everyone to make this day a success and to achieve our goal  
of building Sonia's Dream. Please take a moment to let us know  
how you'd like to help.

Visit our website at [www.SoniasRun.org](http://www.SoniasRun.org)  
or contact Theophany School at 781.444.3058.



HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN AT THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE ANNUAL ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS ANNUAL BAZAAR. BUT HERE WE ARE AGAIN !

**The Bazaar will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>**

The bazaar chairpersons and table heads are looking for help from all of our parishioners. The **Bengari Bar** is looking for donations of new items, all price ranges. Items for adults, teens and children, giftware, personal item, gift cards, sports tickets, etc.

The **Christmas Crafts Table** is looking for Scrabble and Monopoly games (even if they are missing pieces); mason jars; wine glasses; large salt and pepper shakers.

The **Auction** is looking for donations of sports items and tickets; gift certificates of all kinds; weekend getaways; etc. We are also looking for someone to step up and chair the auction.

We are also looking for donations of bottles of wine for a new raffle we will have this year. The value of the wine should be from \$7 and up.

Donated Items for the **White Elephant Table**. There will be a pod delivered on October 1, 2016, for items being donated. We are looking for "Almost New Items". **NO ELECTRONICS, NO COMPUTER MONITORS.**

**Almost New Boutique** is looking for donations of clothing. All items must be clean and on hangers.

As always we are looking for **VOLUNTEERS !**

Ricky Ahto  
[rickahto@gmail.com](mailto:rickahto@gmail.com)

Gail Kurker  
[gkurker@gmail.com](mailto:gkurker@gmail.com)  
St. John's Bazaar Chair People

Kathleen Tawa  
[kmtawa@msn.com](mailto:kmtawa@msn.com)

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